

# Guard Against Machine Injuries



## Safety Meeting Resource

[http://www.safework.sa.gov.au/show\\_page.jsp?id=2764](http://www.safework.sa.gov.au/show_page.jsp?id=2764)

<http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/intranet/hrintra/training>

Machines that cut metal can cut off fingers. Machines that punch through steel can punch through flesh. Such injuries can cause career-ending disabilities as well as severe pain and suffering.

Be alert to these areas when working around or operating machinery:

- **The point of operation:** That is where the work of the machine takes place. It's where the pressing, cutting, punching and boring takes place. It's a place where no part of the body should be. The point of operation may also produce sparks or fragments that can fly toward the operator. Safety glasses are important for this type of work.
- **The power train:** That is where energy is transferred through moving parts like gears, shafts, belts, cables, hydraulic or pneumatic cylinders. No body parts should be in these areas either. Employees should report any missing guards to their supervisor before operating this equipment.

Workers must control machines carefully. In addition to avoiding the power train and point of operation, employees should always:

- Make sure machines are anchored securely to prevent "walking," tipping, excessive vibration or other movement that could be hazardous.
- Never reach blindly into areas that may contain energized parts.
- Be sure there is enough lighting to clearly see all points of operation.
- Keep conductive items -- watches, rings, steel wool, belt buckles -- away from exposed electrical parts.
- Never plug or unplug electrical equipment with wet hands.
- Follow all lockout/tagout procedures.
- Always wear the proper protective equipment for each job.

Research your topic to answer simple questions that help you focus on **SAFETY HAZARDS/ACTIONS** and **steps** for getting your safety meeting off on the right foot!

Safety Meeting Purposes:

List at least two **hazards** that put you and others at risk from prior activities and work practices. **Discuss:**

- ✓ What hazards or issues cause the most injuries and/or accidents in your workplace?
- ✓ How do hazards affect you and co-workers?
- ✓ Why do shortcuts lead to injuries and/or accidents?

List what **actions** are needed to avoid such hazards, using improved steps to keep your workplace safe. **Discuss:**

- ✓ How can hazards be avoided or eliminated?
- ✓ What safety specifics and precautions should be taken to prevent future injuries and/or accidents in your workplace?